VIZ media

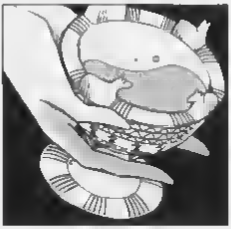
shôjo

RED RIVER™

10

story and art by **Chie Shinohara**

RED RIVER™



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RED RIVER™

vol.10

Yuri was an ordinary junior high student until the day she was sucked into a puddle on the street and emerged in the ancient Hittite Empire! Evil Queen Nakia had used her magic to draw Yuri across time and space to be a sacrifice to her god, Teshub. Rescued by the handsome but arrogant Prince Kail, Yuri is taken to live in his palace as his concubine. Yuri soon learns that in order for her to return to her own place and time, three conditions must be met: she must have the help of a sorcerer equal to the queen—which Prince Kail turns out to be, all seven of Hattusa's springs must fill with water, and Yuri must wear the clothes she had on when she was kidnapped.

Yuri steals into the queen's palace with Kail's young servant, Tito, to retrieve her clothes. But they walk into a trap, and Tito is killed after saving Yuri's life. When the opportunity finally arrives for Yuri to go home, she refuses, vowing to stay until she has avenged Tito's murder.

The Hittites come to adore Yuri as the incarnation of the goddess Ishtar, and Yuri learns that Prince Kail's dream is to create an empire of justice.

Now, the Seven Day Fever strikes down Suppiluliuma I, and Kail's brother, Arnuwanda, assumes the throne. After an overwhelming show of support from the Hittite people, Kail is chosen to be the new Crown Prince over Queen Nakia's son, Jude. Not long thereafter, Princess Güzel—a former lover of Kail's—appears with a child who, she claims, is Prince Kail's son. But Kail suspects that Güzel may be under the control of Queen Nakia...

Story Thus Far:

Prince Kail
A Hittite royal prince, general, and priest-sorcerer

Yuri
A Japanese schoolgirl magically transported to the ancient Hittite Empire

Queen Nekia
An evil sorceress who will stop at nothing to ensure her son's succession to the throne

NAKIA IS CONTROLLING PRINCESS GUZEL...
...AND MAKING HER FALSELY CLAIM THAT PRINCE KAIL IS THE FATHER OF HER CHILD
BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
WHAT DOES NAKIA HAVE TO GAIN FROM THIS?

HIS HIGHNESS AND I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW THE QUEEN'S MOTIVES
YOU'VE GRASPED THE SITUATION QUICKLY, PRINCESS YURI.

...THIS SITUATION ?
SO WHY WOULD NAKIA CREATE...
BUT IF I HAD A SON, THAT WOULD ONLY HURT JUDA'S CHANCES.
EXACTLY.
NAKIA'S AMBITION IS CLEAR..
SHE WANTS PRINCE JUDA TO BE KING.

WHAT IS THAT EVIL WOMAN...
..PLOTTING THIS TIME?
PRINCE KAIL.
YES, KIKKURI.
WHAT IS IT?

WHAT WILL YOU DO, YOUR HIGHNESS ?
...
I SUPPOSE I MUST GO

HE'S GOING TO SEE PRINCESS GÜZEL...

DON'T WORRY. I WILL BE BACK SOON

A MESSENGER WAS JUST HERE
CHAIRMAN AYGIL REQUESTS THAT YOU COME TO HIS HOME IMMEDIATELY.
PRINCESS GÜZEL IS UPSET THAT YOU HAVEN'T ACKNOWLEDGED HER CHILD AS YOUR OWN.

...
SHALL I READY YOUR CHARIOT?
JUST A HORSE, KIKKURI.
NO ONE IS SURPRISED TO SEE PRINCE KAIL KISS ME ANYMORE. THEY'VE ALL FORGOTTEN THAT I'M NOT A REAL CONCUBINE.
NO, THIS IS NO TIME TO GET DEPRESSED.
PRINCE KAIL IS VERY BUSY, SO IT'S UP TO ME TO FIND OUT WHAT THE QUEEN IS UP TO.

YURI, LISTEN TO ME--
I WANT YOU TO BE A GOOD GIRL..
YOU'RE NOT TO LEAVE THIS PALACE WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.
WHY?
HOWEVER MANY CHILDREN PRINCE KAIL MAY HAVE, HE WILL STILL LOVE PRINCESS YURI.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
SO THAT BOY ISN'T PRINCE KAIL'S CHILD.
I'M SO GLAD.
LET THEM BE, PRINCESS YURI.
URSULA ENJOYS THEIR QUARRELS.
AND KASH ONLY TEASES HER BECAUSE HE'S AFRAID TO SHOW HIS TRUE FEELINGS.
I'M A SOLDIER! A THICK SKULL IS AN ASSET
YOU REALLY ARE THICK HEADED!
PLEASE DON'T FIGHT OVER ME.
KASH AND URSULA.

NO! PRINCESS YURI, THAT'S NOT IT!
NO! I WAS JUST...
NOW I GET IT.
FLASH
OH!
I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHY KASH IS AROUND SO MUCH LATELY.
URSULA ...
I LOST AN EARRING THAT PRINCE KAIL GAVE ME.
IT MAY HAVE GOTTEN TANGLED IN ASLAN'S MANE. WOULD YOU GO TO THE STABLES AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND IT FOR ME?
OF COURSE, PRINCESS YURI. I'LL GO RIGHT NOW.
IS KIKKURI HERE?
...

HRR-HRR-HRR
KIKKURI WENT WITH PRINCE KAIL.
OH, NOW I REMEMBER.
HRR-HRR-HRR
EASY NOW...
KNOP KNOP
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING THAT'S VERY DEAR TO PRINCESS YURI.
EASY, BOY.
HRR-HRR-
LET ME LOOK AT YOUR MANE.
ASLAN ...
OH !!
KRAK

R
EEEE
AAAH!
URSULA!

WHUMP
KLOP
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?
LUM... YES. THANK YOU.
HE SCARED ME...
KLOP
KLOP

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BECOMING YOUR PLAY-THING!
IF YOU WANT A WOMAN, GO TO A BROTHEL!
I DON'T WANT A PLAY-THING!

HMPH.
YOU'RE AN ARISTO-CRAT.
HOW COULD SOMEONE OF YOUR STATION...
...WHO IMPER-SONATED PRINCESS YURI?
...HAVE AN HONEST INTEREST IN A POOR VILLAGE GIRL...
MY FATHER DIED WHEN I WAS A CHILD...
I GREW UP IN POVERTY, LIKE YOU.
I'M AN ARISTOCRAT IN NAME ONLY.
!!
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D TRY SO HARD TO ESCAPE THAT FATE, EVEN IF IT MEANT DOING THINGS YOU REGRET.
IF PRINCE KAIL HADN'T TAKEN ME IN...
...I MIGHT'VE BECOME A THIEF IN ORDER TO FEED MY MOTHER AND SISTER.
...

COME LIVE WITH ME, URSULA.
ONCE THIS TROUBLE IS RESOLVED ...
I SHALL ASK PRINCE KAIL'S PERMISSION.
HOW... HOW MANY OTHERS ARE THERE?
HOW MANY WOMEN LIVE IN YOUR HOUSE RIGHT NOW?
YOU LITTLE FOOL!
EVEN PRINCE KAIL HAS ONLY ONE WOMAN!
HOW CAN I HAVE MORE WOMEN THAN THE PRINCE?

KASH ...
WHY DID YOU COME TO THE STABLES?
OH YES . .
PRINCESS YURI ASKED ME TO FEED ASLAN.
BUT ASLAN'S ALREADY BEEN FED.
PRINCESS YURI..
OH!
IS PRINCESS YURI ..UP TO SOMETHING?
GOOD BOY.
YOU DID WELL, ASLAN.
YOU'RE A GOOD ACTOR
HRR-
HRR-
HRR

PRINCE KAIL AND I CAN NEVER GET MARRIED, BUT...
...THERE'S NO REASON MY FRIENDS SHOULDN'T FIND LOVE.

IS PRINCE KAIL VISITING PRINCESS GÜZEL AGAIN TODAY?
Y-YES. HER MESSENGER ARRIVED EARLIER...
I WISH I KNEW WHAT NAKIA IS UP TO.
I'M GOING TO STAY RIGHT HERE SO I WON'T MAKE ANY TROUBLE FOR PRINCE KAIL...
BUT IT'S TORTURE TO SIT IN THIS PALACE WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT'S GOING ON.

...NO, SHE'S NOT. I'M A BIT WORRIED. I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THIS MORNING.
PRINCESS YURI...
HADI...
URSULA ISN'T HERE?
URSULA?
I WONDER WHERE SHE WENT.

...I JUST WISH SHE'D TOLD ME
I HOPE THAT'S WHERE SHE IS...
MAYBE SHE WENT TO SEE KASH.
URSULA!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
PRINCESS YURI!
WHAT WAS IT?!
FORGIVE ME...
BUT PLEASE LISTEN! I STOLE INTO QUEEN NAKIA'S PALACE AND SAW SOMETHING TERRIBLE!

SHE MUST BE PLANNING SOMETHING EVIL AGAIN
LOOK AT THIS!
I WAS TOLD THAT THE QUEEN HAD IT BROUGHT FROM EGYPT IN SECRET.
URSULA, HOW DID YOU...?
A GUARD AT THE QUEEN'S PALACE WAS HAPPY ENOUGH TO LET ME IN...FOR A KISS.
PLEASE DON'T TELL KASH.
I WAS ABLE TO STEAL THIS WITH EASE.
THAT BIG-MOUTHED GUARD TOLD ME MANY THINGS.
URSULA..
YES, PRINCESS YURI
...DON'T EVER DO SUCH A DANGEROUS THING AGAIN.
I AP-PRECIATE WHAT YOU DID, BUT...

!!
WHERE'S THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY?
PERHAPS AN EGYPTIAN WOULD KNOW WHAT IT IS.
WHITE POWDER ?
YES. I TOOK A SMALL AMOUNT AS EVIDENCE.
I WONDER WHAT IT IS.
YOU SAID THE QUEEN HAD THIS BROUGHT FROM EGYPT?
RAMSES!

THIS ISN'T A SOCIAL CALL.
WELL, WELL... I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D COME TO SEE ME.
SLUP
LET ME SEE IT.
I WAS TOLD THAT IT CAME FROM EGYPT.
EH?
RAMSES, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS POWDER IS?

WAP
RAMSES ?!
PTOOF
WHAT'S THIS?!
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?
IT'S POISON!
POISON? WHAT WOULD THE QUEEN WANT WITH IT?
THE QUEEN DOWAGER?
POISON ?!
IT'S A DEADLY EGYPTIAN POISON EXTRACTED FROM THE ROOT OF A PLANT.
YOU COULD KILL A MAN-- OR A BULL-- QUITE EASILY WITH
NAKIA WANTS TO ELIMINATE PRINCE KAIL...
IS SHE.. PLANNING TO POISON HIM?!

I SAW THE QUEEN DOWAGER PUT THE POWDER IN A JAR OF WINE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO BEFORE ?!
THEN IT WAS LOADED ONTO A WAGON WITH OTHER GOODS.
IT LOOKED AS THOUGH THE WAGON WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE THE PALACE
IT WON'T BE HARD TO FIND IT.
I MADE A HOLE IN A BAG OF WHEAT SO THAT WE COULD FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF GRAIN...
YOU'RE A CLEVER GIRL.
LET'S FIND OUT WHERE THAT WAGON WENT.

THERE'S A TRAIL OF WHEAT!
THEN THE WAGON HAS LEFT.
WE NEED ONLY FOLLOW THE TRAIL...
...AND WE'LL KNOW WHERE THE QUEEN DOWAGER SENT THE POISON...
AND WHOM SHE PLANS TO KILL.
SHIVER
THAT EVIL WITCH! SHE WANTS TO POISON PRINCE KAIL!!

THERE IT IS! THE WAGON!
I'M SURE THAT'S IT!
SSS
SSS
KLANK
KLANK
KLANK
KLANK
I WONDER WHERE IT'S GOING.
KLANK
KLANK
KLANK
OH! THAT'S...

...THE INSIGNIA OF THE GAL MESHEDI!
BUT ISN'T THAT PRINCE KAIL?!
THE GAL MESHEDI ?!
THEN THE QUEEN IS PLANNING TO KILL PRINCE KAIL!!
WE HAVE TO WARN HIM !!
WAIT.
THE WAGON ISN'T HEADING FOR THE PRINCE'S PALACE.
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT.
THEN WHERE IS IT GOING?

KLANK
KLANK
KLANK
THE KING'S PALACE!!
THE KING'S PALACE?
WHY WOULD SHE SEND THE POISONED WINE THERE?

IT CAN'T BE!
OH, WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN WHEN PRINCE KAIL WAS AWAY?
GASP
!!
SHE WANTS TO MURDER THE KING?!
...HIS MAJESTY?
YOU MEAN...
...IS ALWAYS THE SAME.
...THE FAVORITE TARGET OF THE ASSASSIN...
IN ALL AGES AND LANDS..

SWEET!
QUEEN NAKIA...
...MADE UP THE STORY ABOUT GÜZEL'S CHILD TO DISTRACT PRINCE KAIL...
THAT'S IT!!
SHE REALLY IS...
A SLY OLD VIXEN, ISN'T SHE?
...SO EVERYONE WILL BELIEVE THAT PRINCE KAIL SENT THE POISONED GIFT.
THE WAGON BEARS THE INSIGNIA OF THE GAL MESHED!...
THAT'S TERRIBLE!
IF THE KING DRINKS THE WINE AND DIES...
...PEOPLE WILL THINK PRINCE KAIL...
PRINCE KAIL?!

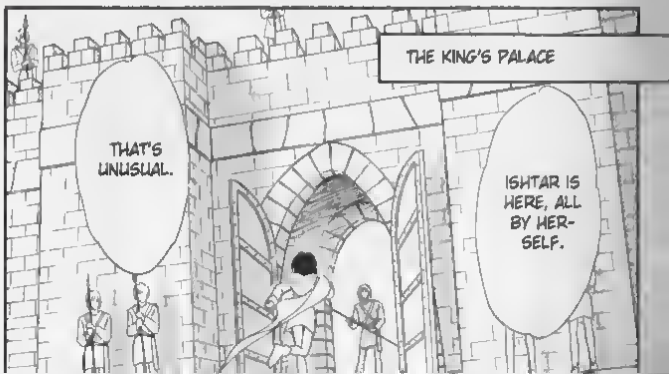
OH!
THE QUEEN WANTS TO ASSASSINATE THE KING...
...AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE PRINCE KAIL IS THE MURDERER!

WOULD SHE REALLY DO SUCH A--
YES.
THAT'S A NASTY TRICK. .
THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF THING SHE WOULD DO!

YES, PRINCESS YURI!
URSULA, GO TELL ILBANI ABOUT THIS!
I'M GOING TO THE KING'S PALACE RIGHT NOW!
THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE! WE HAVE TO THWART HER PLAN!
THIS IS NO CONCERN OF MINE.
HOWEVER, IF THE PRINCE'S CONCUBINE WERE TO GIVE ME A KISS, I'D CERTAINLY CONSIDER IT.
NOT I.
RAMSES, YOU GO WARN PRINCE KAIL!
HE'S PROBABLY AT CHAIRMAN AYGIL'S PALACE...
SWUP
?!

SMEK
YOU IMPUDENT SWINE! HOW DARE YOU ASK PRINCESS YURI FOR A KISS ?!
BE GRATEFUL THAT I KISSED YOU EVEN THOUGH I'M ENGAGED TO KASH.
SUJP
URSULA ?!
I'LL HAVE YURI'S KISS ANOTHER TIME.
HMPH. I'M NOT AT ALL SATISFIED WITH THAT REWARD, BUT IT'LL DO FOR NOW.
NOW GO TELL PRINCE KAIL THIS NEWS-- RIGHT NOW!!
YES!
THW AK
THE COMMANDER OF THE CHARIOTS?
KASH?

♫
HURRY!!
YOU HURRY TOO, URSULA.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, PRINCESS YURI!
WHAT A FIENDISH SCHEME!
I HAVE TO GET RID OF THAT WINE BEFORE ANYONE FINDS OUT IT'S POISONED.
IT WAS DELIVERED IN PRINCE KAIL'S NAME-- THERE'D BE HELL TO PAY IF ANYONE FOUND OUT ABOUT IT!


THE KING'S PALACE
THAT'S UNUSUAL.
ISHTAR IS HERE, ALL BY HER-SELF.

A WAGON ARRIVED HERE A SHORT TIME AGO.
WHERE IS IT NOW?
YOU MEAN THE GIFTS FROM THE CROWN PRINCE? THEY WERE SENT TO THE KING'S KITCHEN.
THANK YOU!
BUT WHAT CAN I DO?
I CAN'T TAKE BACK THE GIFTS!
PRINCE JUDA?
PRINCESS YURI?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I SAW A WAGON MARKED WITH BROTHER KAIL'S INSIGNIA.
BUT IT LOOKED LIKE A WAGON MY MOTHER WAS HAVING LOADED THIS MORNING AT OUR PALACE...
PRINCE JUDA MIGHT AGREE TO HELP ME...
...EVEN THOUGH HE'S THE QUEEN'S SON...
...HE MIGHT HELP ME ..
GULP
PRINCE JUDA, LISTEN ...
WHAT?! MY MOTHER DID THAT?!

LET'S GO. WE CAN'T LET HIS MAJESTY DRINK THAT WINE!
THANK YOU, PRINCE JUDA!
I KNOW WHAT SHE'S CAPABLE OF.
I UNDERSTAND, PRINCESS YURI.
...
I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT...

OH!
WHAT?
THIS KITCHEN IS USED ONLY FOR HIS MAJESTY'S FOOD.

HEH HEH... MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE A LITTLE TASTE? NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW
OF COURSE, IT IS. IT'S A GIFT FROM PRINCE KAIL.
THIS MUST BE AN EXCELLENT WINE.
SPLISH
ALL RIGHT. JUST A LITTLE ONE...
STOP !!
DON'T DRINK IT! IT'S POISON !!

PRINCE KAIL'S PALACE
WHAT?
AND SHE INTENDS TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT PRINCE KAIL IS THE MURDERER?
NAKIA'S TRYING TO POISON THE KING ?!
PLEASE! HURRY!
YES! PRINCESS YURI HAS GONE TO THE KING'S PALACE TO PREVENT IT!
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
TARRUMP

HRR HRR- HRR-
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
HRR-
HRR-
HRR-
FORGIVE ME, BUT MY MESSAGE IS URGENT.
INSOLENCE! HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO PRINCE KAIL FROM THE BACK OF A HORSE?!
YOU DON'T WANT...
WHAT ?!
...TO MURDER THE KING, DO YOU?

...THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S SCHEME.
THAT SEEMS TO BE...
YOUR CONCUBINE'S MAID, URSULA, DISCOVERED THE PLOT...
...AT THE QUEEN'S PALACE.
HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THIS?
KIKKURI, UNHITCH THE HORSE.
I'M GOING TO THE KING'S PALACE!
Y-YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS.
MORE LIKELY...
...SHE SAW WHAT THE QUEEN WANTED HER TO SEE.
HOW COULD SHE MAKE SUCH A DISCOVERY?
DO YOU THINK THAT URSULA IS LYING?
NO.

SHE'S TRYING TO KILL THE KING!
I'LL WAGER NAKIA INVENTED THE STORY ABOUT MY CHILD TO DRAW ME AWAY FROM MY BROTHER'S SIDE.
BUT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING MORE TO THIS PLOT!
YURI, I'M COMING! PLEASE DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH!
TAR RUMP

KRASH
AND PRINCE JUDA !!
ISHTAR !!
I'M SORRY!
I ACCIDENTALLY KNOCKED IT OFF! I HOPE YOU WEREN'T HURT.
WH-WHAT ?!
IT FELL FROM UP THERE!!
WHO ARE YOU ?!

WELL... I WAS JUST IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD, SO I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY.
IT'S OUR HONOR TO RECEIVE YOU!
WE DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU!!
I WON'T BE STAYING LONG.
EEP
SKWEEK
SKWEEK
SKWEEK
SKWEEK
HUH?
!!
WHAT WAS THAT?

WAH! OH NO! NOW I'VE KNOCKED OVER THE WATER POT!!
SPLOOSH
I'M SO SORRY... I MESSED UP YOUR FLOOR!
I'LL CLEAN IT UP.
NO! WE'LL DO IT, YOUR HIGHNESS!
...AND FOILED THE QUEEN'S PLAN.
WE GOT RID OF THE WINE...

!!
WE PUT IT IN A DECANTER AND DELIVERED IT TO HIS PRIVATE CHAMBER.
IT COULD'VE BEEN WORSE. THANK THE GODS THIS HAPPENED AFTER WE TOOK THE WINE TO HIS MAJESTY.
THIS IS TERRIBLE!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT BEFORE ?!
WOULD YOUR MAJESTY LIKE SOME WINE BEFORE DINNER?
FROM KAIL?
IT WAS A GIFT FROM THE CROWN PRINCE.
IN THAT CASE, I'LL HAVE A CUP.

GOOD NIGHT, YOUR MAJESTY.
SPLISH
AND THEN YOU MAY RETIRE FOR THE NIGHT.
YES.
WOULD YOUR MAJESTY LIKE IT NOW?
KLAK

PLEASE DON'T DRINK IT!
DON'T DRINK THAT WINE!
HMM.
IT SMELLS NICE.
DON'T DRINK IT!!

WHAM
YOUR MAJESTY!
MY BROTHER!
KRASH

YURI, JUDA...
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE OUT OF BREATH.
FWUMP
WE...WE MADE IT JUST IN TIME.

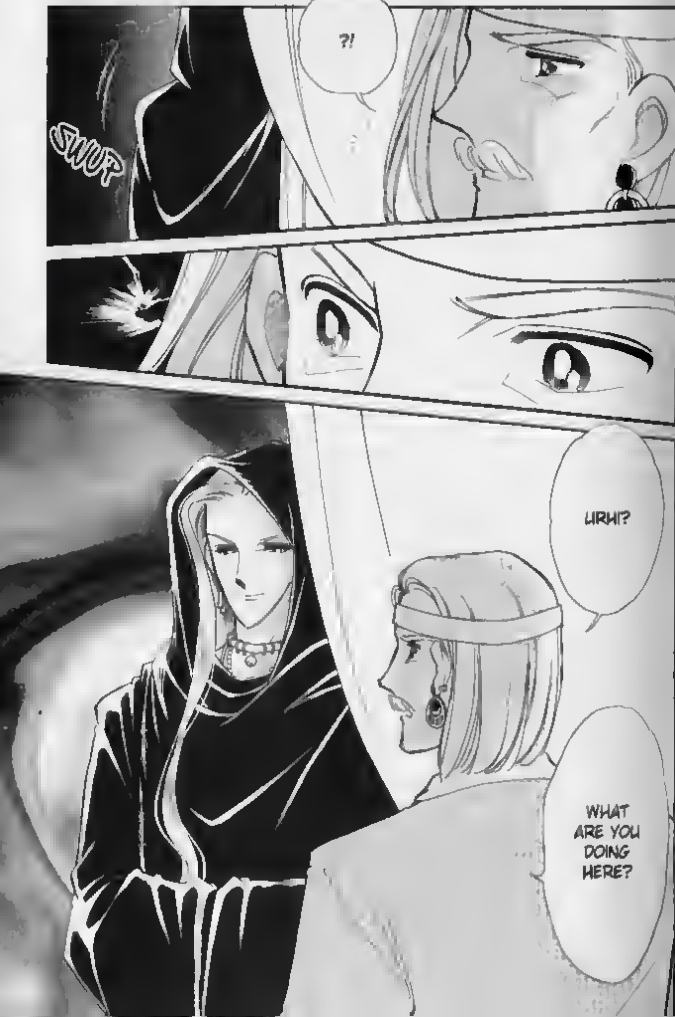
WELL... WE...
UM... WELL...
THE GODDESS ...
SHE TOLD ME TO CONGRATULATE YOUR MAJESTY ON YOUR CORONATION!
HE'LL NEVER BELIEVE THIS ONE...
WHAT?
THAT'S IT! THE GODDESS ISHTAR GAVE ME A MESSAGE!
YOU SHOULD SAVE THAT BLESSING ... FOR MY BROTHER KAIL.
MAY YOUR REIGN BE LONG AND HAPPY!

HIS FUTURE WIFE WILL HAVE A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.
I'M ONLY ABLE TO RULE BECAUSE OF HIS HELP.
BUT KAIL HAS NO ONE TO HELP HIM
MAYBE HE NEEDS NO HELP WITH AFFAIRS OF STATE...
BUT EVEN HE NEEDS SOMEONE TO TEND TO HIS HEART.

YOUR MAJESTY!
THAT'S WHY...
...I'VE BEEN RECOMMENDING THAT HE KEEP AS MANY WOMEN AS HE CAN
COULD YOU ENDURE THE BURDENS A KING'S WIFE MUST BEAR ALONE?
I... UH...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

KAIL IS A GREAT MAN.
YOU WILL SUFFER MUCH IF YOU TRY TO BE HIS EQUAL.
NO WOMAN COULD HANDLE SUCH A RESPONSIBILITY BY HERSELF.

YOUR MAJESTY...
OH, I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU.
IT'S A STATUE OF ISHTAR FROM ASSYRIA.
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO SHOULD HAVE IT.
KREEK
WAIT FOR ME HERE.
I THINK IT'S IN THIS ROOM.
AH YES.


?!
SWIP
URHI?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WOOO
SHRINK
UMF!
YOUR MAJESTY?
I DON'T NEED A GIFT...
I HAVE TO BE GOING NOW...

?!
YOUR MAJESTY ?
SHUDDER
?!
WHAM
YOUR MAJESTY !!
WHAT HAPPENED?! I HEARD A SCREAM!!

AAAAH!!
SOMEONE HELP!!
PLEASE...
YOUR MAJESTY !!
SHAKE SHAKE
SHAKE

YOUR MAJESTY ?!
HE .. HE'S DEAD !!
I WAS JUST TALKING TO HIM...
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN ?

SHAKE
THIS CAN'T BE...
...REAL.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
OH!
BROTHER!
OH!
WHAT'S WRONG?! WHAT HAPPENED ?!
?!
H-HIS MAJESTY!!

WHAT HAPPENED ?!
WHO DID THIS TO THE KING ?!
PRINCESS YURI! PRINCE JUDA!
I'D LIKE TO KNOW THAT TOO.
OH... UH...
WE FOUND HIM LIKE... THAT...
WE HAVE NO IDEA.
YURI !!
WHAT! HIS MAJESTY IS DEAD ?!
HE'S BEEN STABBED THROUGH THE HEART!!
THE KING IS DEAD? IT CAN'T BE!!

PRINCE KAIL!
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
PRINCE KAIL...
OH, PRINCE KAIL!!
BROTHER!
ARNUWANDA!!

BROTHER ?
WHY?! WHO DID THIS?
I...I DON'T KNOW HE STEPPED OUT OF THE ROOM FOR A MOMENT AND...
IT'S TRUE. HE WAS GONE ONLY AN INSTANT.
WHAM

...TO THIS COURTYARD.
THIS DOORWAY LEADS FROM THAT ROOM...
I'VE HEARD AN UNSPEAKABLE TALE!!
IS IT TRUE?! THE KING HAS BEEN MURDERED?!
OH, CURSED DAY!
PRINCE KAIL AND ISHTAR.
HOW QUICKLY YOU ARRIVED.
QUEEN NAKIA!

BY THE GODS! HIS MAJESTY! HOW HORRIBLE !!
WHO HAS DONE THIS DEED ?!
WHO WAS WITH HIM LAST?!
WE MUST INTERROGATE WHOEVER WAS WITH HIS MAJESTY IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS!
UM... I WAS WITH HIM LAST...
YOU, ISHTAR ?!
YOU'VE GOT HIS BLOOD ON YOU!!
SURELY YOU'RE NOT ADMITTING THAT YOU MURDERED...

WAIT, MOTHER.
PRINCESS YURI GOT THE BLOOD ON HER WHEN HIS MAJESTY FELL AGAINST HER.
I WAS ALSO WITH HIM JUST BEFORE HE DIED. BUT WE DIDN'T KILL HIM!
PRINCE JUDA!
!!
JUDA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

I SEE.
PRINCE KAIL?
NOW I UNDER-STAND.
THE KING-SLAYER MUST STILL BE IN THE PALACE.
GUARDS!
BLOCK THE EXITS! DON'T LET EVEN A MOUSE GET PAST YOU!
YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS!

PERHAPS YOU WILL USE YOUR AMAZING INTUITION TO HELP US FIND THE TRUE ASSASSIN
YOUR MAJESTY.
DID YOU HAVE A PRE-MONITION?
YOU ARRIVED QUICKLY TOO.

PRINCE KAIL?
BUT I WON'T FORGIVE YOU THIS TIME!
IS THERE NO CRIME TOO FOUL FOR YOU?!
YOU'D EVEN MURDER A KING TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL!!
YOU NEVER ABANDON YOUR OBSESSION.
FWUP
..OF CAPTURING THE KING'S KILLER TO YOU.
PRINCE KAIL..
I'LL LEAVE THE HONOR..

WUZZ
IS IT TRUE THAT HIS MAJESTY HAS BEEN SLAIN?!
THE KING WAS MURDERED ?!
WUZZ
HIS REIGN WAS SO BRIEF.
OUR KING HAS BEEN ASSASSIN-ATED?!
WHO WOULD DO SUCH A WICKED THING?

I'M SORRY.
WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE EMPIRE?
HOW HORRIBLE!
THEY SAY THAT PRINCE JUDA WAS WITH HER AT THE MURDER SCENE.
IS IT TRUE THAT ISHTAR WAS THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED?
THEY HAVEN'T CAUGHT THE ASSASSIN YET?
WUSP
WUSP
WUSP
WUSP

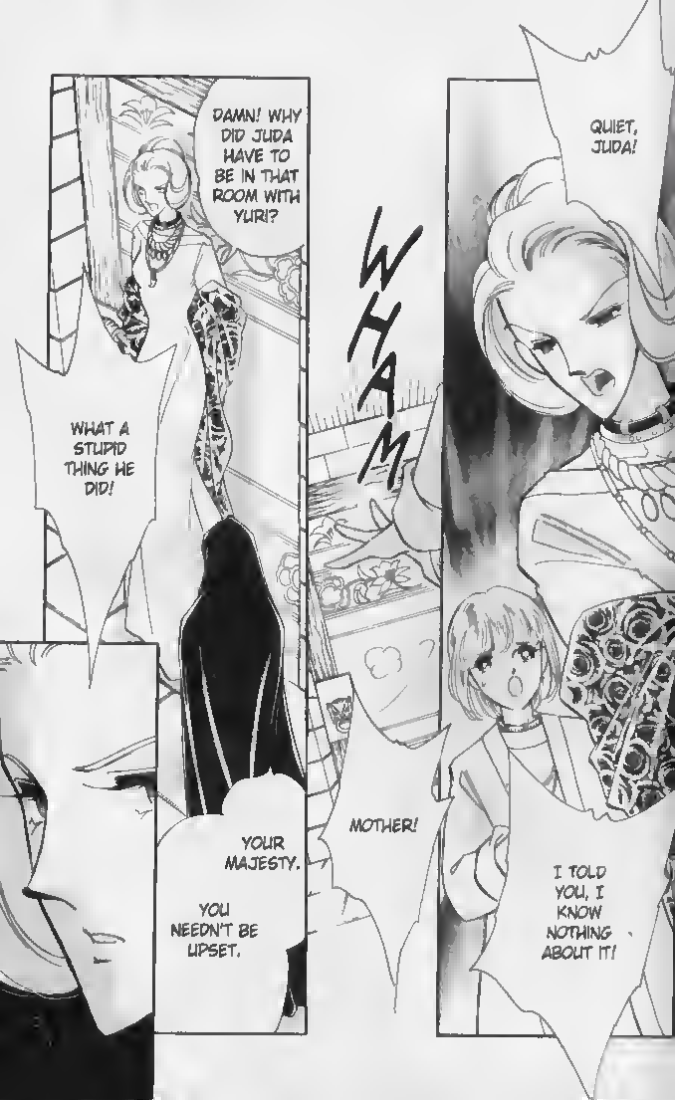
I'M SORRY.
I WENT THERE TO PREVENT THE KING'S MURDER..
BUT I COULDN'T SAVE HIM...
WHAT A NASTY GAME THE QUEEN IS PLAYING!
WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT'S A GOOD THING...
...THAT JUDA WAS THERE WITH YOU.

THERE WAS ONE MORE BARB, AND IT WAS MEANT FOR YOU, PRINCESS YURI.
HAD YOU BEEN ALONE AT THE SCENE ..
...PEOPLE WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT YOU KILLED THE KING.
THREE ?
NOT TWO?
SHE LURED PRINCE KAIL AWAY FROM THE KING'S PALACE BY FABRICATING THE STORY ABOUT HIS CHILD...
...AND THEN SHE WAS GOING TO POISON THE KING AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE PRINCE KAIL DID IT.
DON'T YOU SEE?
QUEEN NAKIA'S PLOT HAD THREE PRONGS.

I KNOW THAT URSULA STOLE INTO THE QUEEN'S PALACE TO GATHER INFORMATION.
APPARENTLY THE QUEEN DOWAGER TOOK ADVANTAGE OF URSULA'S PRESENCE.
THE QUEEN INTENDED FOR YOU TO LEARN OF IT.
THAT WAS NO ACCIDENT.
BUT HOW COULD SHE KNOW I'D BE THERE?
I WAS ONLY WITH THE KING BECAUSE I ACCIDENTALLY FOUND OUT ABOUT HER PLOT
SHE WANTED TO FRAME ME FOR THE KING'S MURDER ?!
I WON'T LET HER GET AWAY WITH IT.
SWUP
WAP

I WONDER ...
WILL WE BE ABLE TO EXPOSE THE QUEEN?
THE QUEEN CAN'T GET AWAY WITH HER CRIME IF HER OWN SON ACCUSES HER.
UNLIKE HIS MOTHER, PRINCE JUDA IS GOOD.
BECAUSE PRINCE JUDA WAS WITH PRINCESS YURI AT THE TIME OF THE MURDER, THE QUEEN'S PLAN FAILED.
I'M SURE IT WAS URHI WHO KILLED MY BROTHER.
I'LL CONVENE THE SENATE IMMEDIATELY...
...AND PUBLICLY EXPOSE THE QUEEN'S CRIMES!

QUEEN NAKIA'S PALACE
MOTHER!
YOU SENT THE POISONED WINE TO HIS MAJESTY, DIDN'T YOU ?!
I KNOW YOU CONSIDER MY BROTHERS TO BE OBSTACLES BETWEEN ME AND THE THRONE!
DON'T LIE!
AND YOU MADE IT LOOK AS THOUGH KAIL SENT IT!
DID YOU ORDER THE ASSASSINATION OF HIS MAJESTY ?!
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE KING!
WHY WOULD I DO SUCH A THING?


DAMN! WHY DID JUDA HAVE TO BE IN THAT ROOM WITH YURI?
WHAT A STUPID THING HE DID!
YOUR MAJESTY.
YOU NEEDN'T BE UPSET.
WHAM
MOTHER!
QUIET, JUDA!
I TOLD YOU, I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT!

IF JUDA WAS WITH YURI...
...THEN CAN HE NOT BEAR WITNESS AGAINST HER?
AH...
YOU'RE SUGGESTING THAT I USE THE BLACK WATER?
HEH HEH HEH
PRECISELY, YOUR MAJESTY.
HA HA
URHI, I'M VERY GLAD...
...YOU'RE ON MY SIDE.
HA HA HA

THE SENATE
AS PRINCE KAIL SAYS...
...ONE CAN ENTER AND EXIT THE ROOM BY WAY OF THE COURT-YARD, BUT...
...PRINCESS YURI AND PRINCE JUDA SAID THEY SAW NO ONE THERE.
HOW CAN WE KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPEN-ED?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT EITHER PRINCESS YURI OR PRINCE JUDA MURDERED THE KING?!
NO! THAT WASN'T WHAT I MEANT !!

BUT THE PEOPLE KNOW...
...THAT HIS MAJESTY WAS MURDERED.
EXECUTED?
SHIVER
CALM YOURSELVES, SENATORS.
I'M CONVINCED THAT SOMEONE IN THE PALACE KILLED MY BROTHER, AND I WILL NOT ALLOW THE KILLER TO ESCAPE.
LET US QUESTION PRINCESS YURI AND PRINCE JUDA ONCE MORE.
IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD.
I REALLY DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING...
DON'T LECTURE US!
WE ALL KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE!
THE KILLER MUST BE FOUND AND EXECUTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

...IF I ACCUSE HIM WITHOUT EVIDENCE, IT COULD MAKE TROUBLE FOR PRINCE KAIL.
I WISH I COULD SAY IT OUT LOUD, BUT...
I'M SURE THAT URHI KILLED THE KING!
HE AND HIS MOTHER HAVE NOT YET ARRIVED.
BY THE WAY, WHERE IS PRINCE JUDA?
PRINCE JUDA!
QUEEN NAKIA AND JUDA HASUP-ASULUPI...
...ARE HERE.

TMP
PRINCE JUDA..
FORGIVE ME, BUT WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL US ONCE MORE WHAT YOU SAW AT THE TIME OF HIS MAJESTY'S MURDER?
PRINCE JUDA?
HE LOOKS STRANGE TODAY.

...
WHUP
?!

PRINCESS YURI...
...MURDERED MY BROTHER

HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
JUDA?!
WH-
WHAT?
I DIDN'T
DO IT!!

ISHTAR IS THE ASSASSIN ?!
PRINCESS YURI MURDERED THE KING!!
NO!!
I'M NOT THE MURDERER !!
I DIDN'T DO IT !!

PRINCE JUDA, WHY?!
PRINCESS YURI MURDERED THE KING.
...I SAW HER KILL HIM.
I WAS IN A STATE OF SHOCK AND COULDN'T SAY IT BEFORE, BUT...
JUDA IS UNDER A SPELL.
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THIS?!
PRINCE KAIL!

YOU DON'T MEAN..
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SAJRK
QUEEN NAKIA USED THE BLACK WATER ON JUDA?
...TO CONTROL PRINCE JUDA?
SHE USED THE MAGIC WATER THAT SHE USED ON TITO AND PRINCE ZANNANZA...

WOULD SHE?
WOULD SHE DO THAT TO HER OWN SON?
THAT SURPRISES EVEN ME.
I DIDN'T MURDER THE KING!!
HOLD ON! I DIDN'T DO IT!
FORGIVE US, LADY ISHTAR.
ISHTAR ASSASSINATED THE KING!
SENATORS, ARREST HER IMMEDIATELY!
WE MUST ASK THAT YOU NOT LEAVE THE PALACE FOR NOW.

NO ONE IS EXEMPT, NOT EVEN MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.
PLEASE!
W-WAIT!
FOR NOW, ALLOW US TO PLACE YOU UNDER THE SENATE'S PROTECTION.
WE MUST INVESTI-GATE.
TUMP
PRINCE KAIL!

THERE'S NO NEED TO TAKE YURI INTO CUSTODY.
IF HER MOVEMENTS MUST BE MONITORED, I CAN DO THAT.
WHEN YOU WISH TO INTERROGATE HER, JUST COME TO MY PALACE.
PRINCE KAIL...
YOUR HIGHNESS!
IT'S AGAINST THE LAW!
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU!
PLEASE, PRINCE KAIL! HAND ISHTAR OVER TO US!

PRINCE KAIL!
ARE YOU SURE? WON'T YOU GET IN TROUBLE?
MAYBE THEY'LL UNDERSTAND IF I EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.
PRINCE KAIL, PLEASE DON'T.
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE WITH HER.
SHE'S COMING HOME WITH ME!!
NOW MAKE WAY!!
FWUP
NO, THEY WON'T.
THE QUEEN PLANNED THIS VERY CAREFULLY.

PRINCE KAIL.
ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T ACTING RECKLESSLY?
I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO, BUT...
...WON'T THIS DAMAGE YOUR REPUTATION?

HMPH.
HE MAY BE POWERFUL, BUT HE'S TOO UPRIGHT FOR HIS OWN GOOD.
IF WE KEEP PRESSING HIM IN THE NAME OF THE LAW, HE WILL EVENTUALLY SURRENDER THE GIRL.
HE COMMANDS THE IMPERIAL GUARD AND ALL THE FORCES OF THE EMPIRE...
...IT WON'T BE EASY TO GET TO HER.
SO LONG AS PRINCE KAIL KEEPS YURI IN HIS PALACE...

RIGHT, JUDA?
YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT IT TAKES MORE THAN UPRIGHTNESS TO RULE AN EMPIRE.
...YES, MOTHER.
GOOD BOY. HERE, HAVE SOME MORE.
THE THRONE WILL SOON BE YOURS.

BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
PLEASE OPEN THE GATES!
YOUR HIGHNESS!
PRINCE KAIL!
PLEASE GIVE HER TO US!
SHE WILL BE TREATED WELL!
PRINCE KAIL!
PRINCESS YURI WILL NOT BE IMPRISONED!
OOOOO

THE KING'S ASSASSINATION IS HIGH TREASON, SO THE LAW IS ON THEIR SIDE.
I DON'T EXPECT THEM TO BACK OFF.
THE SENATE CANNOT BACK OFF FROM ITS DEMAND THAT PRINCESS YURI BE SURRENDERED TO THEM.
YOUR HIGHNESS!
IF YOU KEEP IGNORING THEIR REQUEST...
...YOU'LL ONLY MAKE MATTERS WORSE!
NO, URSULA.
YOU WERE DOING JUST AS PRINCE KAIL TOLD YOU TO DO! AND I BROUGHT THIS UPON YOU...
I'M SO SORRY!
THIS ALL HAPPENED BECAUSE I STOLE INTO THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S PALACE!

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, URSULA.
I WAS CARE-LESS.
YOUR HIGHNESS, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!
PRINCE KAIL, HAND ME OVER TO THEM! PLEASE!
YOU MUSTN'T MAKE AN ENEMY OF THE SENATE!
THEY'LL DISCOVER THAT I'M INNOCENT WHEN THEY COMPLETE THEIR INVESTI-GATION.
DON'T FOOL YOUR-SELF.
ONCE YOU ARE TAKEN TO THE KING'S PALACE...
...YOU'LL BE AT THE MERCY OF QUEEN NAKIA. AND SHE HAS NO MERCY.

DURING THE INTERREGNUM, TAWANANNA IS THE MOST POWERFUL PERSONAGE IN THE LAND.
WHOEVER COMES TO RULE THE EMPIRE, SO LONG AS NAKIA IS ALIVE...
...SHE WILL RETAIN HER STATUS AS TAWANANNA
IT WOULD BE EASY FOR HER TO SECRETLY ARRANGE THE DEATHS OF A CONCUBINE OR TWO WITHIN THE KING'S PALACE.
SHE'D HAVE ME KILLED...
SHIVER

AND DON'T FORGET ...
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOUR HEAD IS ALL THAT NAKIA REQUIRES...
IN ORDER TO DESTROY PRINCE KAIL, TOO.
SHE BROUGHT ME HERE SO THAT SHE COULD PUT A CURSE ON THE PRINCES...
I SHALL TAKE THIS AS HER DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST ME.
NAKIA IS EVEN WILLING TO USE HER OWN SON AS A PAWN.

...
PRINCE KAIL...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, YOUR HIGHNESS?
WE CAN'T HAND PRINCESS YURI OVER TO THEM, BUT...
...IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT RESOLVED, IT WILL HINDER YOUR SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE.

YES, SIR?
HADI.

HOW FAR CAN I COUNT ON THAT LOYALTY?
YOU HATTI HAVE PLEDGED LOYALTY TO YURI.

I BEG YOUR PARDON, YOUR HIGHNESS...
...BUT YOUR WORDS STING ME.
COMMAND US TO DIE, IF YOU DOUBT OUR LOYALTY TO PRINCESS YURI FOR EVEN A MOMENT.
WE ARE PREPARED TO KILL OURSELVES RIGHT NOW IF YOU ASK US TO.
I SEE.
BUT WILL THE OTHERS OF YOUR TRIBE BE WILLING TO RISK THEIR LIVES FOR YURI?
I NEED YOU TO BUY TIME WHILE I RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM.
GIVE YURI SANCTUARY IN YOUR CITY UNTIL THEN.

PRINCE KAIL, THIS IS WRONG!
I'M NOT JUST WORRIED ABOUT HADI AND HER SISTERS!
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
IF YOU LET ME GO, THE SENATE WILL TURN AGAINST YOU!
PRINCE KAIL, DON'T DO THAT! I DON'T WANT TO MAKE TROUBLE FOR THE HATTI!
YOU HAVE OUR WORD, PRINCE KAIL. WE'LL ALLOW NO HARM COME TO HER.
HADI!
WE'LL CONTACT OUR FATHER IN ALINNA RIGHT AWAY.
LET'S ALL HELP THEM PREPARE FOR THEIR JOURNEY
...
ALL RIGHT!

NO!
I DON'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU AGAIN!
JUST WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF.
DO YOU THINK I WANT TO LET YOU GO?

I NEVER KNEW THIS FEELING UNTIL I MET PRINCE KAIL.
I NEVER KNEW...

..KAIL...
PRINCE...
I NEVER LONGED FOR ANYONE LIKE THIS BEFORE!

PRINCE KAIL!
YOU'RE TESTING THE TOLERANCE OF THE SENATE!
IF YOU DON'T OPEN THE GATE AT ONCE, I SHALL BE FORCED TO SUMMON SOLDIERS!
YURI, I'LL COME FOR YOU SOON.
UNTIL THEN, STAY SAFE.

KREEK
SENATE CHAIRMAN AYGIL...
DISTINGUISHED SENATORS...
I AM YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT.
ACTUALLY, PRINCE KAIL WAS ABOUT TO COMPLY WITH YOUR REQUEST...
BUT IT SEEMS THAT ISHTAR HAS FLED WITH HER HATTI MAIDS...
WHAT ?!
TELL THE CROWN PRINCE THAT IF HE DOES NOT DELIVER PRINCESS YURI TO US IMMEDIATELY--
ILBANI!

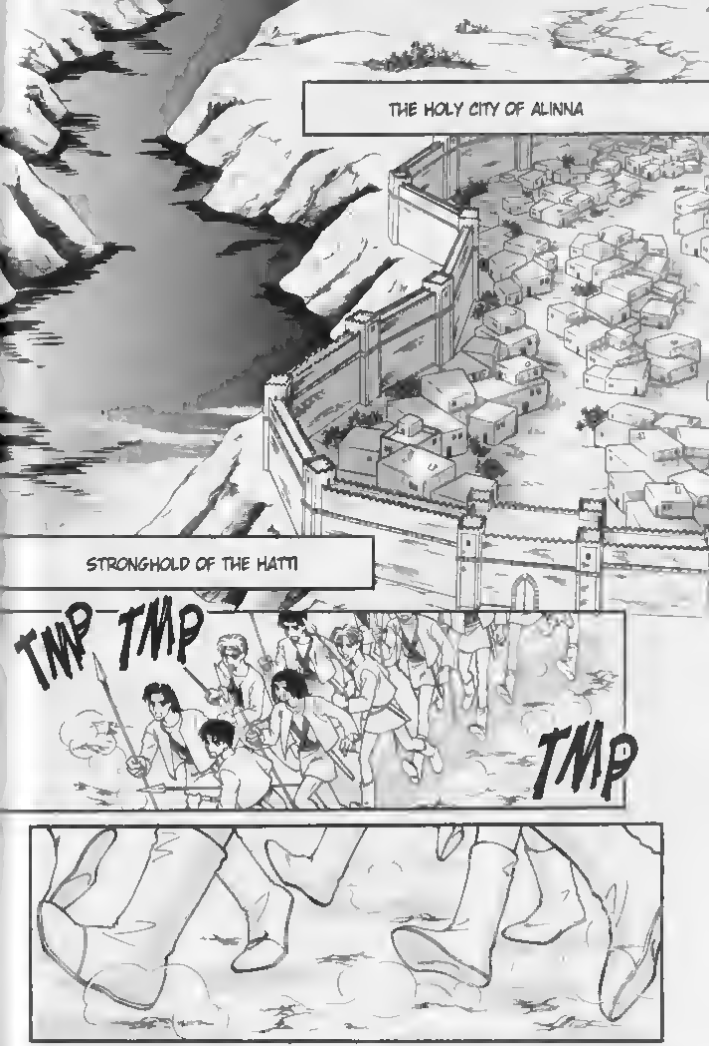
AND, UNFORTUNATELY, OUR PALACE IS UNDER-STAFFED...
AS YOU KNOW, THE HATTI PEOPLE ADORE ISHTAR.
ISHTAR RAN AWAY?
HOW COULD PRINCE KAIL LET THIS HAPPEN?

AS YOU WISH.
GUARDS! COME WITH ME!
WE'LL HAVE TO SEARCH THIS PALACE!

IF WE MAKE IT THROUGH THIS CRISIS...
...PRINCE KAIL WILL BE KING?
DON'T WORRY, PRINCESS YURI.
WHEN THIS CRISIS IS OVER, PRINCE KAIL WILL SURELY BECOME THE NEW KING.
THE NEXT TIME YOU RETURN TO HATTUSA, YOU'LL BE THE CONCUBINE OF A KING.
HADI'S RIGHT.

YURI LEFT PRINCE KAIL'S PALACE...
THE FUN IS FINALLY BEGINNING.

GO AFTER HER!!
KRAK
WHAT ?!
YURI HAS FLED TO ALINNA?!
I'LL HAVE HER BACK IF I HAVE TO ANNIHILATE THE ENTIRE HATTI TRIBE!!


THE HOLY CITY OF ALINNA
STRONGHOLD OF THE HATTI
TMP TMP
TMP

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHY ARE ALL THOSE SOLDIERS HERE?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR?
THEY'VE COME TO ARREST ISHTAR FOR THE MURDER OF THE KING!
YOU'VE HEARD THE ACCUSATIONS THAT ISHTAR IS THE KINGSLAYER, HAVEN'T YOU?
THE HATTI HAVE GIVEN HER SANCTUARY.
BUT I WONDER ...
COULD ISHTAR BE GUILTY?

OPEN THE GATES! BY ORDER OF THE SENATE!!
OBEY AT ONCE OR WE WILL USE FORCE!
STOP BEHAVING LIKE FOOLS, YOU HATTI!
RAAAH
RAAAH
HA!
YOU'LL USE FORCE AGAINST US? WE MADE YOUR WEAPONS!
WE CAN USE THEM BETTER THAN YOU CAN!
WE WON'T LET YOU HAVE ISHTAR!
TRUST US, PRINCESS YURI.
THOSE SOLDIERS WON'T ENTER ALINNA.

TALOS, I'M SORRY ... I BROUGHT THIS TROUBLE ON YOUR PEOPLE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, PRINCESS YURI. THE YOUNG ONES ARE ENJOYING THEM-SELVES.
THINK OF YOUR STAY HERE AS A HOLIDAY.
THANK YOU, BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN'T.
DON'T WORRY, PRINCESS YURI. I'M SURE PRINCE KAIL CAN HANDLE THIS.
SHE'S RIGHT. JUST STAY HERE AND RELAX.
I PROMISE.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL STAY PUT THIS TIME.
...UNTIL MY INNOCENCE HAS BEEN PROVEN.
I'M A SUSPECT IN THE KING'S MURDER! THINGS WILL CONTINUE TO WORK AGAINST PRINCE KAIL'S INTERESTS...

"NO WOMAN COULD HANDLE SUCH A RESPONSIBILITY BY HERSELF."
IT KILLS ME TO SIT AROUND AND NOT BE ABLE TO HELP HIM...
I'M NOT GOOD AT SITTING STILL.
HE WAS RIGHT.
IT'S NOT EASY TO BE WITH PRINCE KAIL.
KING ARNUWANDA TOLD ME BEFORE HE DIED...
...THAT PRINCE KAIL'S WIFE WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT DUTIES TO FULFILL.
I'LL DO JUST AS PRINCE KAIL SAID...
I'LL WAIT RIGHT HERE UNTIL HE COMES FOR ME.
THE OUTCOME OF THIS WILL DETERMINE WHETHER PRINCE KAIL BECOMES KING.
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HURT HIS CHANCES.

THE IMPERIAL PALACE

HATTUSA

I ASK THAT YOU BRING ISHTAR BACK TO HATTUSA IMMEDIATELY.
YOUR HIGH-NESS...
YOU MUST KNOW THAT YOU'VE PUT YOURSELF IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION.
YES, BUT...
...ONCE SHE'S MADE UP HER MIND, YURI WON'T LISTEN TO ANYONE.
AND ALINNA IS THE STRONGHOLD OF THE HATTI, AND THEY ARE SUCH AN INDEPENDENT LOT.
WHAT CAN I DO?

DOES PRINCESS YURI HAVE A GUILTY CONSCIENCE?
PERHAPS THAT'S WHY SHE'S AVOIDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND HERSELF IN PUBLIC.
DAMN THE QUEEN!
IT WAS BECAUSE OF HER THAT YURI HAD TO FLEE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
I KNOW THAT NAKIA HAD MY BROTHER MURDERED.
BUT HOW CAN I PROVE IT?
...OUR EMPIRE IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE MY SON, JUDA...
WELL, IF THE CROWN PRINCE CANNOT ESTABLISH HIS CONCUBINE'S INNOCENCE...
HMM...
...AS A LEGITIMATE HEIR TO THE THRONE.

THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD
CHAIRMAN AYGIL HAS BEEN NEUTRAL ON THE QUESTION OF WHO SHOULD BE THE NEXT KING.
BUT HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD YOU CHANGED WHEN PRINCESS GÜZEL CLAIMED THAT YOU WERE THE FATHER OF HER CHILD.
...
NOTHING.
YOUR HIGHNESS, WHAT IS IT?
YOUR MAJESTY, SENATORS ...
...IF WE COULD PROVE HER INNOCENCE, CORRECT?
YURI'S PRESENCE HERE WOULD BE UNNECESSARY...
HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO THAT, PRINCE KAIL?

AYGIL, WOULD YOU PLEASE SUMMON PRINCESS GUZEL?
MY DAUGHTER?
YES.
I'VE LEFT HER MATTER UNSETTLED, BUT I NEVER INTENDED TO IGNORE IT.
I DO NOT CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT I HAVE A SON TO BE A PRIVATE MATTER.
IN FACT, THIS QUESTION HAS A DIRECT BEARING ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE KING'S MURDER.
CURSE YOU, KAIL. WHAT'S YOUR GAME NOW?
AYGIL IS RIGHT, YOUR HIGHNESS. YOU SHOULD DEAL WITH YOUR PRIVATE MATTERS AT ANOTHER TIME.
SHE WILL BE VERY HAPPY TO HEAR THAT, YOUR HIGHNESS
BUT WE SHOULD FINISH OUR INQUIRY INTO THE KING'S MURDER FIRST...

WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ
VERY WELL. IF YOU INSIST ...
...I'LL HAVE MY DAUGHTER BROUGHT HERE.
...
YOUR HIGHNESS ...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
THE SUREST WAY TO PROVE YURI'S INNOCENCE ...
...IS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT JUDA--UNDER THE QUEEN'S CONTROL--BORE FALSE TESTIMONY. BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DO THAT BECAUSE SHE'S ALWAYS WITH HIM.
!!
SO YOU INTEND TO ESTABLISH THAT PRINCESS GÜZEL IS UNDER HER INFLUENCE AS WELL.
EXACTLY.
BESIDES, I WANT TO CLEAR UP THE CONFUSION ABOUT HER SON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WHAT?
PRINCESS GÜZEL HAS BEEN CALLED BEFORE THE SENATE?
IS IT ABOUT THE CROWN PRINCE'S BASTARD SON?
WHY WOULD THEY CALL PRINCESS GÜZEL TO THE SENATE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
IT WILL DAMAGE PRINCE KAIL'S POPULARITY THE SAME WAY THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ISHTAR'S DID.
THE KING'S KILLER STILL HASN'T BEEN CAUGHT.
AND ISHTAR IS A SUSPECT.
DEPENDING ON HOW THIS TURNS OUT...
...PRINCE JUDA MAY BE OUR NEXT KING...
...INSTEAD OF CROWN PRINCE KAIL.

I'M SO HAPPY THAT YOU SUMMONED ME!
PRINCE KAIL!
PRINCESS GUZEL...
I'D LIKE YOU TO TELL ME ONCE AGAIN...
..AM I THE FATHER OF YOUR SON?

PLEASE PICK UP OUR SON AND HOLD HIM, PRINCE KAIL!
I'VE LONGED FOR YOU EVER SINCE I LEFT HATTUSA!
OF COURSE YOU ARE!
YOU'RE THE MAN I LOVE!
THIS CAN ONLY DIMINISH THE PEOPLE'S RESPECT FOR HIM.
THIS IS PRACTICALLY A PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDG-MENT THAT THE BOY IS HIS SON.
WHAT IS THE CROWN PRINCE TRYING TO DO?
SMIRK

I'D LIKE TO HOLD YOU IN MY ARMS.
BEFORE I DO THAT...
...PRINCESS GUZEL...
OH, YOUR HIGHNESS!

YOUR HIGH-NESS...
P-PRINCE KAIL!!
?!
PRINCE KAIL? Y-YOU'RE HOLDING ME TOO TIGHTLY!
I CAN'T BREATHE ...
SWOOP
AH, YOUR FRA-GRANCE.. I REMEMBER IT WELL
HOW I'VE LONGED TO BE IN YOUR EMBRACE AGAIN!

UNH?
AGH !!
SHWUP
PRINCESS GÜZEL.
FORGIVE ME.

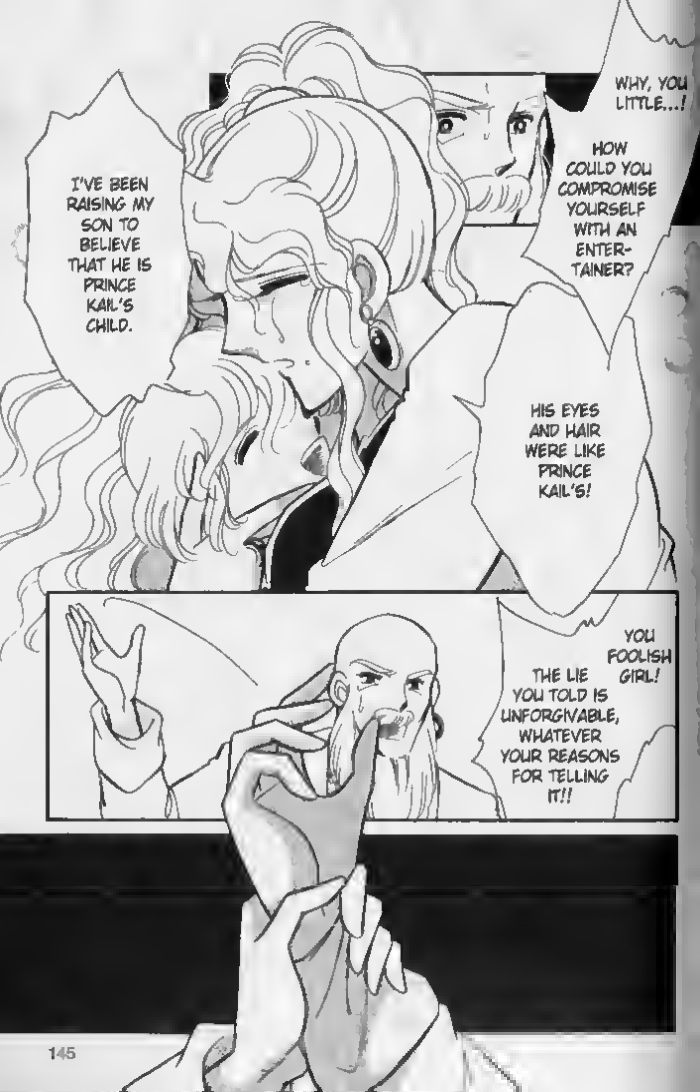
BLURT
BLACK WATER!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, PRINCE KAIL?!
KOFF KOFF
GÜZEL?
GÜZEL, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!
KOFF

GÜZEL!
HOW...
...HOW DID I GET HERE?
FATHER?
GÜZEL!
SHE'S COME TO HER SENSES!

PRINCE KAIL!!
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, PRINCESS GUZEL.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
YOU SAID THAT I AM THE FATHER OF YOUR SON.
DO YOU REMEMBER SAYING THAT?
WHAT?
OH... YES...
I DO.

BUT...
...WHY WOULD I SAY SUCH A THING?
THAT'S UTTERLY RIDICULOUS!
HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE YOUR SON!!

THE FATHER IS..
...THE TRAVELING MINSTREL WHO STAYED AT OUR PALACE.
GÜZEL, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THEN WHO IS THE BOY'S FATHER ?
I WAS VERY LONELY AFTER PRINCE KAIL LEFT ME.
THE MUSICIAN COMFORTED MY LONELY HEART.
THE...THE FATHER IS...
THOUGH I WISH YOU HAD BEEN...
...HIS FATHER!


I'VE BEEN RAISING MY SON TO BELIEVE THAT HE IS PRINCE KAIL'S CHILD.
WHY, YOU LITTLE...!
HOW COULD YOU COMPROMISE YOURSELF WITH AN ENTER-TAINER?
HIS EYES AND HAIR WERE LIKE PRINCE KAIL'S!
YOU FOOLISH GIRL!
THE LIE YOU TOLD IS UNFORGIVABLE, WHATEVER YOUR REASONS FOR TELLING IT!!

YOUR HIGH-NESS ?!
I DON'T THINK YOUR DAUGHTER MEANT TO TELL THAT LIE.
SHE WAS BEWITCHED WHEN SHE DID IT.
WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ
BE-WITCHED ?
IS SUCH A THING POSSIBLE ?
IT IS INDEED.
AND ONE WHO IS UNDER SUCH A SPELL CAN BE MADE TO SAY THINGS AGAINST HER WILL.
THERE'S ANOTHER ?
GLANCE
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND SHE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE.
AS GÜZEL DID?

PRINCE JUDA ?!
HOW DARE YOU!!
I...I REMEMBER DRINKING SOME WINE..
AND DO YOU REMEMBER WHO GAVE YOU THE WINE?
COME TO THINK OF IT ...
...PRINCE JUDA DID TELL US INITIALLY THAT PRINCESS YURI WAS INNOCENT.
PRINCESS GÜZEL.
DO YOU REMEMBER DRINKING OR EATING ANYTHING JUST BEFORE YOU TOLD THE LIE?
OH!
I THINK ...

...THE QUEEN DOWAGER GAVE IT TO ME.
WUZZ
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?!
WHAT? THE QUEEN DOWAGER GAVE HER THE WINE ?!
QUEEN NAKIA...
..PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A FALL FROM GRACE.
WUZZ
WUZZ

PRINCE KAIL...
I WANT TO GO BACK TO YOU...
RAAH
RAAH
RAAH
RAAH
RAAH
PLEASE COME FOR ME SOON!

ALINNA, STRONGHOLD OF THE HATTI
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
PRINCESS YURI!
THERE'S A MESSENGER!
FROM PRINCE KAIL!

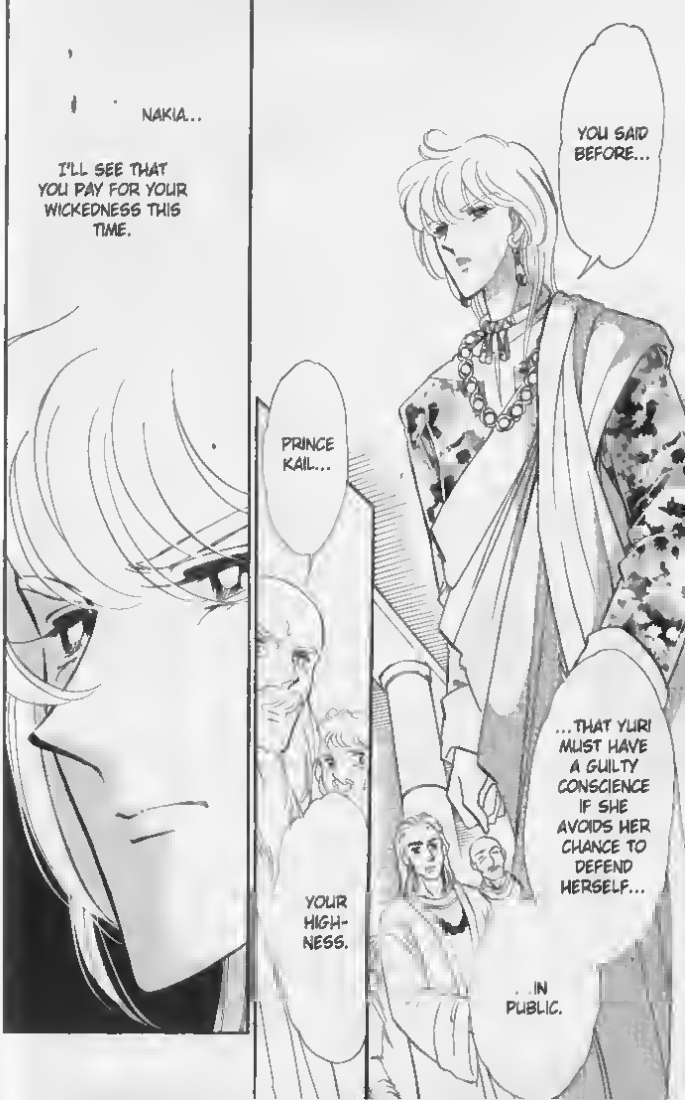
RUSAFA!
PRINCESS YURI
I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU SAFE AND WELL.

WHAM!
WAH
I CAN I GO BACK TO HATTUSA NOW?
WHAT'S PRINCE KAIL'S MESSAGE ?
IS HE GOING TO BE THE KING?
P-PRINCESS YURI... CALM YOURSELF, PLEASE!
I'M SORRY TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT...
...YOU HAVE TO STAY IN ALINNA AWHILE LONGER.
I CAN'T GO BACK YET?
GLOOM
...PRINCE KAIL WAS ABLE TO PROVE THAT PRINCESS GUZEL WAS BEWITCHED BY SOMEONE...
I'M AFRAID NOT. HOWEVER.
AND HE BELIEVES HE CAN PROVE THAT PRINCE JUDA TESTIFIED FALSELY AGAINST YOU BECAUSE HE WAS BEWITCHED AS WELL.

THANK THE GODS! I DIDN'T WANT PRINCE KAIL TO BRING ANOTHER WOMAN INTO HIS PALACE!
THEN EVERYONE KNOWS THE CHILD ISN'T PRINCE KAIL'S SON!
THE QUEEN DOWAGER GAVE DRUGGED WINE TO PRINCESS GÜZEL TO CONTROL HER?!
AND PRINCE JUDA IS BEWITCHED AS WELL?!
THEN ...
...HAS PRINCE KAIL PROVEN THAT JUDA WAS ALSO UNDER A SPELL AND THAT IT WAS THE QUEEN DOWAGER WHO WAS DOING THE BEWITCHING?
WAS HE ABLE TO PROVE IT?
WELL...
ACTUALLY...

WUZZ
WUZZ
PRINCE JUDA ?!
WUZZ
...BUT MAY WE PLEASE EXAMINE YOU?
FORGIVE ME, YOUR HIGH-NESS...
GASP
DON'T TOUCH HIM!

THIS IS AN INSULT TO THE TAWANANNA!
I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO EXAMINE HIM!
YOUR MAJESTY...
YOUR MAJESTY...
WOULD IT NOT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE HERE AND NOW?
MY SON?! BEWITCHED?!
DO YOU DARE TO ACCUSE ME?!


NAKIA...
I'LL SEE THAT YOU PAY FOR YOUR WICKEDNESS THIS TIME.
PRINCE KAIL...
YOUR HIGH-NESS.
YOU SAID BEFORE...
...THAT YURI MUST HAVE A GUILTY CONSCIENCE IF SHE AVOIDS HER CHANCE TO DEFEND HERSELF...
...IN PUBLIC.

IT'S AN OUTRAGE!
CURSE KAIL.
JUDA.
COME TO ME.
DON'T YOU TOUCH MY SON!
HE'S TRYING TO REVEAL TO EVERYONE THAT I USED THE BLACK WATER...
..TO BEWITCH JUDA!
PLEASE COOPERATE WITH US!
THE SENATE MUST EXAMINE EVERYTHING THOROUGHLY!
QUEEN NAKIA! THIS CONCERNS THE KING'S MURDER AND THE IMPERIAL SUCCESSION!

WAR WITH...
IF YOU DARE TO USE FORCE AGAINST ME, THEN BE PREPARED FOR WAR WITH BABYLONIA!
...BABYLONIA?
I WILL NOT HAND JUDA OVER TO THEM!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT I AM A BABYLONIAN PRINCESS?
DON'T FORGET THAT THE MIGHT OF BABYLONIA IS BEHIND ME!
THEN...
I CAN'T HAND JUDA OVER TO THEM.
IF THEY EXAMINE JUDA, THEY'LL DISCOVER THE BLACK WATER.
YOUR MAJESTY..
WE DO NOT WISH TO USE FORCE.
PLEASE ..
I CAN'T HAND HIM OVER!
FORCE?
AGAINST THE TAWANANNA ?!
YOU INTEND TO USE FORCE AGAINST ME?!

WAR ?!
YES.
WAR WITH BABYLONIA ?!
OH, THAT WITCH!
SHE'S SO EVIL!
BUT PRINCE KAIL CAN'T LEAVE HATTUSA NOW.
AND THE ARMY OF THE SENATE IS HERE AT ALINNA.
PLEASE STAY HERE, PRINCESS YURI.

WAR?
NOT ANOTHER WAR.
THE PEACE THAT PRINCE KAIL AND PRINCE ZANANNZA RISKED THEIR LIVES TO ACHIEVE WOULD BE DESTROYED...

YOUR HIGH-NESS...
I'M SORRY THAT I COULDN'T BE OF HELP TO YOU.
MY TESTIMONY WASN'T SUFFICIENT PROOF...
...OF THE QUEEN'S TREACHERY.

I'M SORRY TO HAVE SHAMED YOU IN PUBLIC.
PRINCE KAIL?
PRINCESS GÜZEL..
IT IS I WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE.
PRINCESS GÜZEL...
...IT WAS GOOD TO SEE YOU.
DESPITE THE CIRCUM-STANCES ...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M SORRY.
I DID...
...A VERY CRUEL THING TO YOU.

YOU FOUND...
...THE WOMAN YOU WERE LOOKING FOR, DIDN'T YOU?

WHEN YOU WERE SEEING ME AND THE OTHER PRINCESSES ...
...YOU TREATED US ALL EQUALLY.

IN THE PAST, NO MATTER HOW HARD WE COMPETED WITH ONE ANOTHER FOR YOUR AFFECTION ...
...YOU TREATED US ALL THE SAME.
BUT NOW YOU'VE FOUND THE WOMAN OF YOUR DREAMS.
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TURN AWAY FROM OTHER WOMEN.
NONE OF US WAS EVER ABLE TO RISE ABOVE THE OTHERS AND STEAL YOUR HEART.

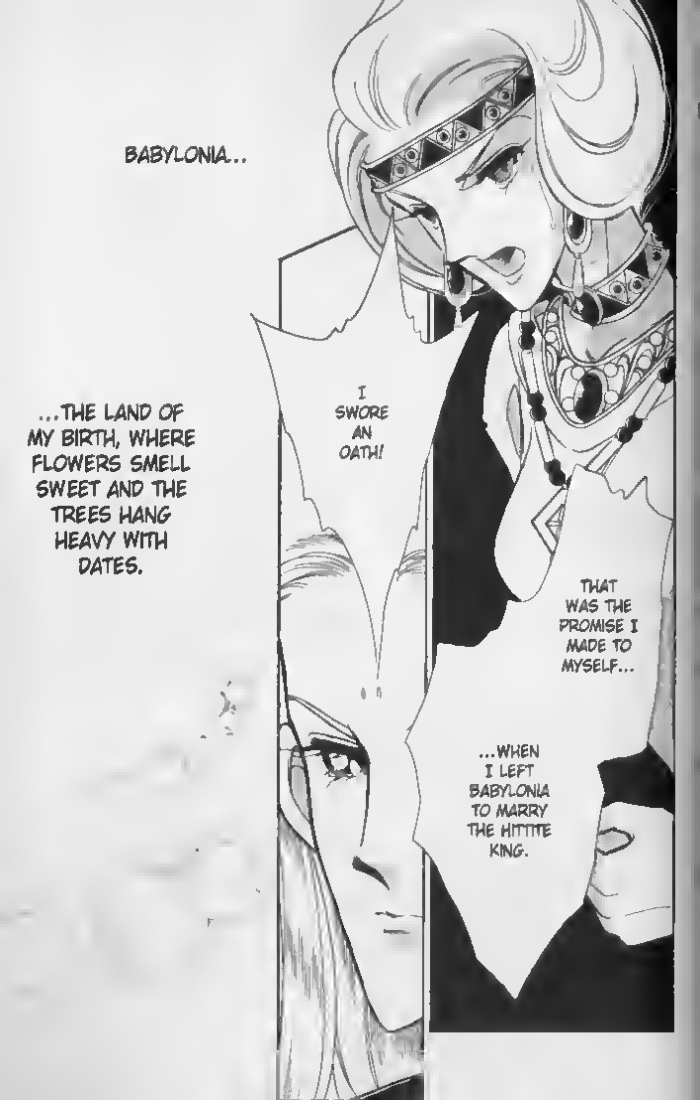
I WISH PRINCESS YURI...
...A SWIFT AND SAFE RETURN.

SOMETIMES I FEAR THAT I'LL BECOME SO CAPTIVATED BY HER THAT I'LL BE UNABLE TO FULFILL MY DUTIES.
EVEN NOW, I'M TEMPTED TO ABANDON EVERYTHING AND DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BRING HER BACK HERE.
THAT GIRL IS..
...VERY..
..DEAR TO ME.

NAKIA'S PALACE
WHAT SHALL WE DO, YOUR MAJESTY?

THEY WON'T CEASE THEIR INVESTIGATION UNTIL THEY'VE FOUND THE KING'S ASSASSIN.
URHI.
YOU SPEAK AS THOUGH IT WERE SOMEONE ELSE'S DEED.
IT WAS YOU WHO PLUNGED THE KNIFE INTO THE KING'S HEART
DO YOU INTEND TO EXPOSE ME TO PROTECT YOURSELF?
YES, BY YOUR ORDER.
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT YOU'RE MY SERVANT.
EXPOSING YOU WOULD ONLY IMPLICATE ME.

I WON'T GIVE UP!
I INTEND TO ENSURE ..
..THAT MY SON ..
...BECOMES KING OF THE HITTITES! MY BLOODLINE SHALL RULE THIS EMPIRE !!


BABYLONIA..
...THE LAND OF MY BIRTH, WHERE FLOWERS SMELL SWEET AND THE TREES HANG HEAVY WITH DATES.
I SWORE AN OATH!
THAT WAS THE PROMISE I MADE TO MYSELF...
...WHEN I LEFT BABYLONIA TO MARRY THE HITTITE KING.

THE SUMERIANS TOOK GREAT PRIDE IN BABYLON, THEIR CAPITAL. ITS WEALTH AND KNOWLEDGE MADE IT THE CENTER OF THE WORLD.
THEY HAVE ENRICHED THE SOIL AND MADE THE KINGDOM FLOURISH SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.
THE TIGRIS AND THE EUPHRATES...
...THE TWO GREAT RIVERS RUN THROUGH MY COUNTRY.

MURSIL! I BURNED BABYLON, LOOTED ITS TREASURES, AND DEPOSED OUR KING.
BUT THE HITTITES DESTROYED BABYLONIA.
AND SUPPILULIUMA IS AS OLD AS YOU ARE!
BECAUSE OF THE HITTITES, WE BABYLONIANS MUST GROVEL BEFORE UPSTART NATIONS LIKE THE MITANNI! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT?!
FATHER, YOU WANT ME TO MARRY A HITTITE AND LIVE AMONG THOSE BARBARIANS ?!
FOR THE SAKE OF BABYLONIA, MARRY THE HITTITE KING.
YOUR SISTER NADIA WILL GO LIVE AMONG THE MITANNI.
NAKIA, PLEASE UNDERSTAND.
THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT OUR COUNTRY FROM THE MITANNI IS TO ALLY OURSELVES WITH OUR ENEMIES.

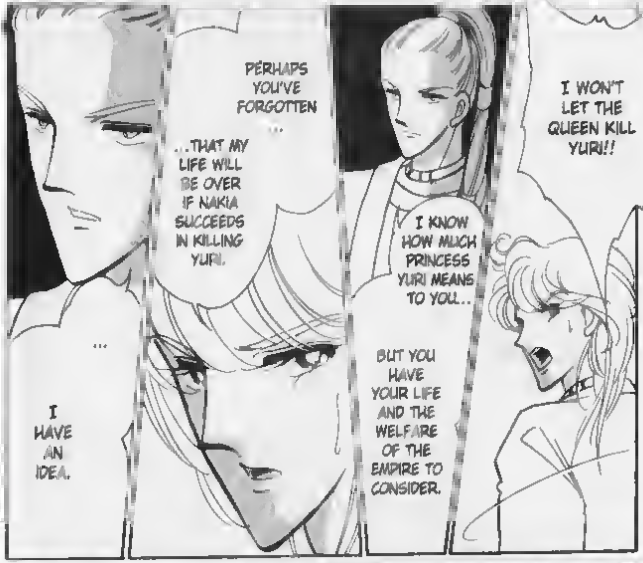
VERY WELL.
I'LL DO IT.
NAKIA...
YOU'RE ASKING ME ..
...TO SACRIFICE MYSELF FOR OUR COUNTRY.
I WILL GO TO HATTUSA AND WED THE HITTITE KING!
I SHALL BEAR THE KING A SON, AND MY BLOOD SHALL RULE THE HITTITES!
BUT IF I CANNOT AVOID THIS FATE, THEN I SWEAR THAT MY BABYLONIAN BLOOD WILL COURSE IN THE VEINS OF ALL FUTURE HITTITE KINGS!!

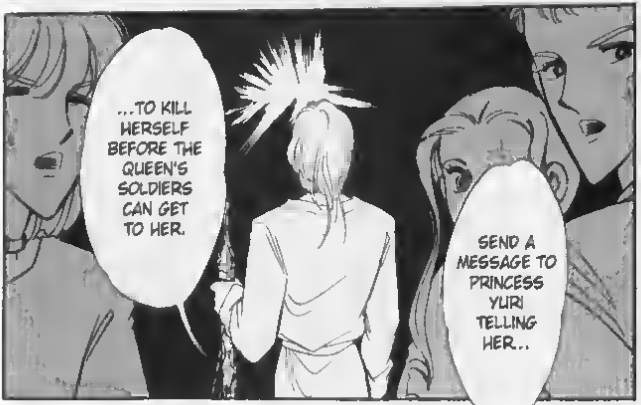
JUDA WILL BE THE NEXT RULER OF THIS EMPIRE!
I WILL ACCEPT NO ONE ELSE AS KING!
I UNDER-STAND.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?
YOU SAY THEY WON'T GIVE UP UNTIL THEY'VE FOUND THE KING'S MURDERER?
...
I SHALL GIVE THEM THAT LITTLE GIRL!
THEN I SHALL GIVE THEM THEIR ASSASSIN!
YURI SLEW KING ARNUWANDA SO THAT KAIL MIGHT TAKE THE THRONE!!
AND I, AS TAWANANNA, SHALL EXECUTE HER! THAT WILL SOLVE ALL OF MY PROBLEMS!!

AS YOU WISH.
KILL YURI !!
TELL THEM IT'S THE HEAD OF THE BETRAYER FOR WHOM THEY SEEK!!
KILL HER AND THROW HER SEVERED HEAD INTO THE LAPS OF THOSE SENILE OLD SENATORS!!

WHAT?
THE QUEEN DOWAGER SENT HER MEN TO GET YURI?
YES!
BUT...
WE HAVE TO STOP THEM!
SHE'S SENT THEM TO KILL PRINCESS YURI FOR THE MURDER OF THE KING!
I'M GOING TO RESCUE YURI!!
TMP
YOUR HIGHNESS, PLEASE DON'T!
WAP
SUMMON THE IMPERIAL GUARD!
STEP ASIDE, ILBANI !!
I'M GOING TO ALINNA !!

IF YOU MOVE AGAINST THE QUEEN'S SOLDIERS IN YOUR CAPACITY AS CROWN PRINCE, IT WILL SURELY MEAN WAR.
BABYLONIA AND ALL THE OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WILL USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INVADE.
DON'T GIVE THEM THE EXCUSE THEY'RE LOOKING FOR.
WHAT ?!
IF YOU SEND YOUR TROOPS AGAINST THE QUEEN'S NOW...
...THERE WILL BE CIVIL WAR


I WON'T LET THE QUEEN KILL YURI!!
I KNOW HOW MUCH PRINCESS YURI MEANS TO YOU...
BUT YOU HAVE YOUR LIFE AND THE WELFARE OF THE EMPIRE TO CONSIDER.
PERHAPS YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ...
...THAT MY LIFE WILL BE OVER IF NAKIA SUCCEEDS IN KILLING YURI.
...
I HAVE AN IDEA.


SEND A MESSAGE TO PRINCESS YURI TELLING HER...
...TO KILL HERSELF BEFORE THE QUEEN'S SOLDIERS CAN GET TO HER.

YOU WANT ME TO TELL YURI TO COMMIT SUICIDE ?!
IF YOU EVER DISPATCH SUCH A MESSAGE TO HER..
...THE LOVE I BEAR YOU WILL NOT SAVE YOU !!
KAAK

RAH
I'M AFRAID HIS HIGHNESS WON'T BE ABLE TO COME HERE.
IF HE MOVES HIS ARMY NOW, HE WILL THROW THE EMPIRE INTO CIVIL WAR.
FATHER!
I HOPE REINFORCE-MENTS ARRIVE FROM HATTUSA IN TIME!
I WONDER WHEN PRINCE KAIL WILL COME

RAH
THIS PLACE WASN'T BUILT TO BE A FORTRESS !!
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM! WE CAN'T STOP THEM!!
WHAT ?!
THEY'RE GOING TO ATTACK THE CITY!!
HADI, THE SOLDIERS OF THE QUEEN DOWAGER ARE HERE!!

...HER CURSE WILL STRIKE DOWN PRINCE KAIL!
HAHAHA
WHAT? BUT, FATHER ...
...IF THE QUEEN KILLS PRINCESS YURI...
PRINCESS YURI!
...IF I KILL MYSELF BEFORE THE QUEEN DOWAGER CAN KILL ME, RIGHT?
HE'LL LIVE...
WHAT?
...
THERE IS A WAY THAT PRINCE KAIL CAN LIVE EVEN IF PRINCESS YURI DOES NOT.

AM I RIGHT?
NAKIA BROUGHT ME HERE SO THAT THE CURSE SHE PUT ON THE PRINCES WOULD WORK
I'LL SLIT MY OWN THROAT BEFORE I LET THAT HAPPEN!
I CAN'T ALLOW HER TO WIN.
PRINCESS YURI!
BUT...

...I'D PREFER...
...NOT TO HAVE TO DO IT.
IF PRINCE KAIL CAN'T COME HERE...
...I'LL RETURN TO HATTUSA ON MY OWN.
IT'S NOT MY NATURE TO SIT AND WAIT.
HURRAY, PRINCESS YURI!

ASLAN.
LET'S GO!

ILLUSTRATION GALLERY